

NORTHWEST TEXAS BIRD REPORT
SUMMER 2020
Prepared by Anthony Hewetson

TBRC review species are in **bold**. County names are in *italics*. All cited observers are listed, alphabetically, at the end of the report.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 4 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Aquatic Center Park in Hereford, *Deaf Smith* 21 Jul (ph. Erich Fickle, Luella Fickle) – were part of the continuing expansion of the species which is proceeding, fitfully, into the panhandle proper.

CANADA GOOSE: 75 Canada Geese were at McCullough Park, *Lubbock* 16 Jul (Glenda Kelly), 26 Canada Geese were at Dupree Park, *Lubbock* 19 Jul (Clarice Robertson, Floyd Robertson) and 98 Canada Geese were at McCullough Park, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (Glenda Kelly) – these were migrants into the region and were running, by contemporary standards, somewhat early. This could also be early movement from the large breeding population that has become established in Amarillo.

HOODED MERGANSER: One female Hooded Merganser was seen at Leroy Elmore Park, *Lubbock* 15-31 Jul (ph. Glenda Kelly, ph. Jim Crites, ph. Brad Shine)

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: One adult male Rufous Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 31 Jul (ph. Anthony Hewetson) – though not unprecedented, this is early for the species to hit the region.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: One female Broad-tailed Hummingbird was in a Lubbock yard, *Lubbock* 31 Jul (Jim Crites) – another somewhat early report of a western hummingbird in the region.

WILLET: One Willet was spotted near Hale Center, *Hale* 7 Jul (Jayna Adams, T. Jay Adams) – this represents a fairly early date for the region.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 2 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Greenways Park, *Randall* 18 Jun (ph. Vicki Wilmarth) – and were presumably late moving northbound migrants.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: 2 Western Sandpipers were at Lake Palo Duro, *Hansford* 28 Jun (ph. Christian Walker) – and could have been extraordinarily late northbound birds or extraordinarily early southbound birds.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: One Spotted Sandpiper was at Greenways Park, *Randall* 20 Jun (K. Dean Edwards), one Spotted Sandpiper McAlister Park, *Lubbock* 24 Jun (Jennifer Miller) and one Spotted Sandpiper was at Leroy Elmore Park, *Lubbock* 28 Jun (Anthony Hewetson) – these were either very early southbound migrants or extraordinarily late northbound migrants – I favor the former interpretation.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: One Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 10 Jul (William Wenthe), one Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Boys Ranch, *Oldham* 11 Jul (Steve Glover) one Solitary Sandpiper was reported from Lake Rita Blanca, *Hartley* 11 Jul (Steve Glover) – these are fairly early reports for the species.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 30 Wilson's Phalaropes were at the TX152 Feedlot, *Gray* 27 Jun (Christian Walker) – and might have represented an isolated breeding population or very early southbound migrants.

RING-BILLED GULL: One Ring-billed Gull at the Friona Playa, *Parmer* 19 Jun (Grant Beauprez) – was far from the one regular summering spot for the species in the region; Lake Meredith.

COMMON LOON: One Common Loon was seen at Lake Meredith, *Hutchinson* 16-17 Jun (ph. Mark Elliott) – stunning as the species is accidental to the region in summer.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 3 American White Pelicans were seen near Hereford, *Deaf Smith* 21 Jul (Erich Fickle, Luella Fickle) – representing a very rare summer report away from the larger bodies of water in the panhandle proper.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: One Little Blue Heron was reported from Lake Meredith, *Potter* 13 Jun (K Dean Edwards) – and was more likely a spring overshoot than a post-breeding wanderer.

COOPER'S HAWK: A breeding pair of Cooper's Hawks produced two fledglings in an Amarillo yard, *Randall* during the period with birds being seen from 6 Jun through 31 Jul (ph, Vicki Wilmarth) – though the species is becoming regular in summer in the panhandle proper this was the only breeding report received this year.

COOPER'S HAWK: One Cooper's Hawk was seen at MacKenzie Park, *Lubbock* 28 Jun (Bobby Schat), one Cooper's Hawk was seen at Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 1 Jul (Mike Hensley) and one Cooper's Hawk was at MaeSimmons Park, *Lubbock* 12 Jul (Bobby Schat) – the species is not yet regular in summer this far south but these sightings portend.

WESTERN SCREECH OWL: One Western Screech Owl was well heard at Copper Breaks State Park, *Hardeman* 6 Jul (Barbara Pankratz) – making for one of the oddly out-of-place records of the species into its eastern reaches.

PEREGRINE FALCON: One Peregrine Falcon at the Bison Road Playa, *Hockley* 29 Jul (William Wenthe) – was, by contemporary standards, an early report for the region.

PRAIRIE FALCON: One Prairie Falcon was at Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, *Bailey* 25 Jul (Bob Nieman) and one Prairie Falcon at the TTU HSC fields, *Lubbock* 30 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – representing early reports for the region.

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: One Cassin's Kingbird was found near Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 11 Jul (ph. Steve Glover) – for a rare summer report of the species in the region.

CAVE SWALLOW: One Cave Swallow was found near Childress, *Childress* 27 Jun (Christian Walker) – though no longer noteworthy further to the south, the species is taking its time getting into the panhandle proper.

BUSHTIT: 4-8 Bushtits were at Lake Six, *Lubbock* 27-28 Jul (Zachary Schwab, Brad Shine) – FORMERLY REGULAR THIS FAR WEST IN THE REGION; REPORTS FROM LUBBOCK COUNTY ARE NOW QUITE SCARCE.

CACTUS WREN: One Cactus Wren was seen near Lake Meredith, *Potter* 27 Jun (ph. Rod Goodwin), 2-6 Cactus Wrens were seen near Stinnett, *Moore* 28-29 Jun (ph. Mark Elliott, ph. Rod Goodwin) and on 1 Jul (Doug Smith), and one Cactus Wren was at Caprock Canyons State Park, *Briscoe* 28 Jul (John Curcuruto) – this influx of the species into the panhandle proper somehow bypassed the southern high plains just to the south, suggesting movement from the west.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: 2 Eastern Bluebirds were at Yellowhouse Canyon, *Lubbock* 21 Jun (Bobby Schat) – this is quite far west for potentially breeding birds to be found in the region.

GRAY CATBIRD: One Gray Catbird was in an Amarillo area yard, *Randall* 13 Jun (ph. Vicki Wilmarth) – for yet another summer report for the region.

SAGE THRASHER: One Sage Thrasher was found near Thompson Grove, *Dallam* 11 Jul (ph. Steve Glover) – for a rare, truly summer report of the species in the region.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH: 3 American Goldfinches found below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 1 Jun (Jim Crites) – represented a very late date for the site – and one American Goldfinch seen at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, *Randall* 23 Jul (ph. Doug Smith) – was an exceptional summer report.

CHIPPING SPARROW: 8 Chipping Sparrows were found along the Purina Mountain Bike Trail, *Lubbock* 27 Jul (Lena Zappia) – and represented an early report for the region.

OVENBIRD: One Ovenbird was singing at Farwell Country Club, *Parmer* 13 Jun (audio, Grant Beauprez) – representing an extraordinary summer report for the region.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: One Louisiana Waterthrush was below Lake Six, *Lubbock* 19 Jul (Jennifer Miller, Brad Shine) and one Louisiana Waterthrush was at Maxey Park, *Lubbock* 26 Jul (Anthony Hewetson) – represented very early dates as the species is generally not found in the region until well into August.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER: One Black-and-white Warbler was seen in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 28 Jul (Cathleen Pollard) – representing a fairly early date for this migrant.

BRONZED COWBIRD: One Bronzed Cowbird was found near Weinert, *Haskell* 7 Jun (Richard Hermosillo) – and though the species may be fairly regular to the region, this is a rare report from this county.

WESTERN TANAGER: One male Western Tanager was seen along Armadillo Road, *Hockley* 13 Jul (William Wenthe) – and represented an extraordinarily early date for the species in the region.

Cited observers: Jayna Adams, T. Jay Adams, Grant Beauprez, Jim Crites, John Curcuruto, K Dean Edwards, Mark Elliott, Erich Fickle, Luella Fickle, Steve Glover, Rod Goodwin, Mike Hensley, Richard Hermosillo, Anthony Hewetson, Glenda Kelly, Jennifer Miller, Bob Nieman, Cathleen Pollard, Clarice Robertson, Floyd Robertson, Bobby Schat, Zachary Schwab, Brad Shine, Doug SmithChristian Walker, William Wenthe, Vicki Wilmarth, Lena Zappia.